



**Washington State  
Transportation Improvement Board**

**Memorandum**

**Date:** November 7, 2007  
**To:** Richard Ford, Transportation Commission Chair  
**From:** Steve Gorcester, TIB Executive Director  
**Subject:** Route Jurisdiction Transfer Requests – Transfer of Assignment

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The Transportation Improvement Board (TIB) proposes to ask the 2008 Legislature to reassign the responsibility for reviewing route jurisdiction transfer requests from TIB to the Transportation Commission. This request was originally agreed to by the Transportation Commission and submitted during the 2006 legislative session. However, it did not gain legislative support at that time due to a bill reforming the Commission. This memorandum summarizes the transfer process and provides a history of transfer requests.

**What is Route Jurisdiction Transfer?**

Route Jurisdiction Transfer is the conversion of a state highway into a local road, or the conversion of a local road into a state highway.

**How are Route Jurisdiction Transfers currently processed?**

The 1991 Route Jurisdiction Transfer process exchanged highway routes throughout the state between WSDOT and local governments. After that one-time transfer, TIB was appointed by the Legislature (RCW 47.26.167, 47.17.001) to review additional transfers requested by WSDOT or a local government. The attached time table summarizes the RJT process.

**Why does the TIB want to assign transfer requests to the Transportation Commission?**

The Transportation Commission is the proper body to review transfer requests because most actions relative to the designation and classification of state highways already reside with the Commission. The transfer process was originally assigned to TIB because the Commission was perceived as being too directly linked to WSDOT. The TIB believes that its role in route transfers interferes with its more important daily business relationship with WSDOT and our local agency customers. Now that the Commission has a more autonomous relationship with respect to WSDOT, it is the appropriate body to review route transfers.

**How much work do route transfers require?**

Route Jurisdiction Transfer requests come in less than once per year. Most transfers require a small study, notice to affected parties and a public hearing. Statute currently requires TIB to analyze the transfer request, hold a hearing, and make a recommendation to the Legislature for action (WAC 479-210, 479-216). The total staff commitment is usually very low, about two to four person weeks per year. Some route transfers are more time consuming, but many are very simple.

### **History of Route Jurisdiction Transfers Since 2000**

- 2000: Paine Field Boulevard, from SR 525 to SR 526, by Snohomish County to WSDOT. The TIB recommended adding Paine Field Boulevard to the state highway system. The 2001 Legislature adopted this transfer as submitted.
- 2001: SR 513 from SR 520 to NE 65<sup>th</sup> Street, by WSDOT to City of Seattle. The TIB recommended transferring part of SR 513. The Legislature took no action on this request.
- 2002: SR 99 from SR 599 to SR 518, requested by the City of Tukwila for transfer to the City from WSDOT. The TIB recommended the route remain a state highway. In 2003 the Legislature approved the transferred of SR 99 from SR 599 to SR 518 to the City of Tukwila despite the TIB recommendation.
- 2004: SR 290 from Division Street to Hamilton Street requested by the City of Spokane for transfer from WSDOT to the City. TIB recommended the change to the Legislature and it was adopted as submitted by the 2005 Legislature.
- 2006: US Forest Service Road 90, Curley Creek Road, and Wind River Road, between SR 503 and SR 14, requested by Skamania County for transfer from the County to WSDOT. The TIB recommended the route remain with Skamania County. If any action needs to be taken by the Legislature, it will take place during the 2008 legislative session.

### **Current Route Jurisdiction Inquiries**

- 2007: Benton County submitted a request to transfer County Road 397, Piert Road to I-82 from Benton County to WSDOT. This transfer request will be processed by TIB in February 2008.
- 2005: Jefferson County submitted Hoh River Road for transfer to the state highway system and later withdrew the request for further review.
- 2005: WSDOT inquired about TIB's jurisdiction in the transfer of SR 500 from SR 503 to vicinity of NE 162<sup>nd</sup> Ave Clark County. It was determined that a TIB review under the Route Jurisdiction Transfer statute was not required. The transfer was handled directly by the Transportation Commission.
- 2004: Washington State Parks requested consideration of a transfer of SR 100 from SR 101 into Fort Canby State Park. WSDOT determined that this transfer did not require review by TIB under the Route Jurisdiction Transfer statute. The transfer was handled directly by the Transportation Commission.